

LONG ISLAND, N. Y., BIRD NOTES.

BY NEWBOLD T. LAWRENCE.

IN the following notes, I take pleasure in recording several additional captures to those already mentioned in a list of 'Rare Birds taken on Long Island, N. Y.', published in 'Forest and Stream,' May 2, 1878.

1. *Polioptila cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Shot a female of this species at Far Rockaway, April 18, 1874.

2. *Dendroeca castanea*. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—Secured an adult male in a small grove of oaks at Far Rockaway, June 23, 1870. Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell has a record from Riverdale, N. Y., dating July 26, 1875. He also informs me that, from records kept of this bird for a number of years at Riverdale, N. Y., in its regular migration, the latest spring record is the end of May, and the earliest fall record the middle of August.

3. *Vireo philadelphicus*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell, while staying with me at Far Rockaway, had the good fortune to secure a fine specimen of this Vireo on September 25, 1879. I had the pleasure of skinning the bird, which proved to be a male. This is the first record of its capture on Long Island.

4. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Shot a specimen of this bird at Far Rockaway, May 30, 1882. Another was noticed in its company but not secured.

5. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—This bird, I think, may now be included among the winter residents on Long Island. I have taken specimens at Far Rockaway during November and December, and one (male) January 1, 1884. Mr. Win. Dutcher secured two specimens at the same place on February 23, 1885.

6. *Ammodromus maritimus*. SEA-SIDE FINCH.—One specimen (female) taken on the salt meadow at Far Rockaway, February 22, 1884. Another was noted, but not secured, November 25, 1885.

7. *Caprimulgus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—On April 26, 1885, Mr. Henry DeForest found a nest of this bird at Oyster Bay, containing two eggs; the following week, May 3, he again visited the spot, and found young birds that had evidently been hatched several days. I record the above as an unusually early date. J. P. Giraud, Jr., speaking of this bird in 'The Birds of Long Island,' says, "It arrives on Long Island about the first of May, from the South; in the latter part of the same month the female commences laying."

8. *Nyctale acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL.—Mr. Osborne killed one of these birds on Montauk Point, November 20, 1885.

9. *Ardea cærulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—On April 3, 1885, while taking a tramp over the salt meadows at Far Rockaway, I started a Little

Blue Heron from a small pond near the sand hills. The bird flew almost out of sight. It finally lighting, I walked to about where I thought the bird had gone down, and on following the banks of a small creek, had the good fortune to flush the bird within twenty-five feet, when I secured it. It proved to be an adult male. This is my first record of the Little Blue Heron on Long Island, and I think it is an unusually early date.

10. *Ochthodromus wilsonius*. WILSON'S PLOVER.—Mr. Harold Herrick secured a male of this species at Far Rockaway, May 17, 1879. Two others were seen by myself the same day but not secured.

11. *Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*. GREATER LONG-BEAK.—Secured a specimen in Fulton Market, New York, October 15, 1884, killed on the south side of Long Island.

12. *Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER.—I have always found this bird unusually common in the vicinity of Far Rockaway, and should like to give my experience with it on two occasions during the past two years. On September 10, 1883, I was shooting on the meadows; wind east; rained from six A. M. until twelve M. On that day I had three flocks come to my decoys, composed of Little Yellow Legs and Stilt Sandpipers, and numbering from fifty to one hundred birds in each. I killed nineteen, twenty-one, and ten, respectively; among them were twenty Stilts.

On July 28, 1884, there occurred one of the largest flights of Bay Birds at Far Rockaway that I have seen in a number of years. The day was bright and clear, with a light southerly wind; it had stormed hard from the East all the preceding day. The flight was composed almost entirely of Little Yellow Legs and Stilt Sandpipers, every flock containing more or fewer of each. Saw several flocks composed entirely of Stilts. One numbering twelve came to my decoys and I killed them all. I secured that day twenty Stilt Sandpipers, all old birds. On both the dates mentioned a great many flocks of traveling birds were seen flying very high; some of them must have numbered over two hundred individuals.

13. *Actodromas bairdii*. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—Shot a female of this species on the salt meadow at Far Rockaway in August, 1882. Entirely alone when captured.

14. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW.—During a period of about twelve years' Bay Snipe shooting at Far Rockaway and vicinity. I have only four records of this bird,—one September 12, 1875, one September 10, 1876, and two September 26, 1884.

15. *Numenius longirostris*. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—My experience with this bird in the vicinity of Far Rockaway is to find it more uncommon than the preceding, having but two records during the same period of time. The first, a female, was killed on the ocean front of the outer beach, in company with a flock of Bartram's Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*), August 20, 1873. The second was shot on the salt meadow, August 26, 1885. I might mention here that the *Numenius hudsonicus* is common, the flight generally taking place from the 10th to the end of July.

16. *Steganopus wilsoni*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—On October 10, 1874, I had one of these birds settle in my decoys, swimming among them quite

fearlessly. On October 15, 1879, I saw one swimming in the East River at the foot of Pine Street, New York City. It was very gentle, the steamer I was on passing within twenty-five feet of it, when it started, flew a short distance, and settled on the water again.

17. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*. CLAPPER RAIL.—This bird seems to be a winter resident on Long Island. Mr. Wm. Dutcher informs me that the gunners at South Oyster Bay see a few every winter. I have the following records from Far Rockaway: Nov. 9, 1872; Nov. 25, 1883; Dec. 5, 1884. Messrs. Wm. Dutcher and L. S. Foster found a freshly killed specimen on the outer beach, February 23, 1885.

18. *Porzana noveboracensis*. YELLOW RAIL.—At Far Rockaway, Oct. 15, 1883, while crossing a large field within a short distance of the salt meadow, I started one of these Rails, but having no gun I did not secure it. It was very gentle; I flushed the bird three times, it rising at first within a few feet and flying but a short distance. Mr. Harold Herrick informs me that he started a Yellow Rail on the Jamaica Bay meadows, near Far Rockaway, in October, 1882, but failed to shoot it.

THE BLACK-CAPPED VIREO AND NONPAREIL IN SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS.

BY N. S. GOSS.

WHILE collecting and observing the birds in Comanche County, from May 7 to 18 inclusive, 1885, I captured three pairs of *Vireo atricapillus*, and saw quite a number, all in the deep ravines in the gypsum hills on the Red or Salt Fork of the Arkansas River, near the town of Rumsey. The birds were quite bold and noisy, but this may be the case only during mating and the early part of the breeding season. They are very pleasing singers, their song being not like the 'who's-afraid,' jerky notes of the White-eyed Vireo, nor as loud as those of the Red-eyed, but a more warbling and varied song than that of any of the family which I have heard.

On the 11th I found a nest near the head of a deep cañon, suspended from the forks of the end of a horizontal branch of a small elm tree, about five feet from the ground. It was screened from sight above by the thick foliage of the tree, and the larger surrounding trees; but beneath for quite a distance there was nothing to hide it from view. The material, however, of which it was made so closely resembled the gypsum that had crumbled